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THE

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THE PREFACE.

THE *Engliſh* Tongue, the preſent Speech of *Great Britain*, and the Subject Matter of this Dictionary, is a Compound of ancient Languages, as *Britiſh*, (*Welſh*) *Saxon*, *Daniſh*, *Norman* and *modern French*, *Latin* and *Greek*. From the five firſt of which, the Bulk or converſable Part is derived, and from the two laſt, the Technical Words or Terms of Art and Science. The *Britiſh* Tongue, though originally the native Language of the Country, makes, however, but the ſmalleſt Part of the Compoſition. For the *Britains*, having been gradually weakened by their Wars with the *Picts*, *Romans*, *Saxons*, *Danes*, &c. for the Space of one thouſand Years, were at laſt obliged to retire over the *Britiſh Alps*, carrying with them their Language into that Part of *Britain* call'd *Wales*, where they have preſerved it to this Day. Mean while their victorious Oppreſſors have outed the proper Owners of their Country, and not only occupied their Lands, but induſtriouſly diſſeminated their own Languages.

THE *Roman* Legions, though they reſided ſome hundreds of Years in *Britain*, made no extraordinary Alteration in the *Britiſh* Tongue, ſo tenacious were the *Britains* of their native Language at that Time.

NOR did the *Danes* make much more, by Reaſon of the Shortneſs of their Reign, which was but about twenty ſeven Years, except in ſome of the *Northern* Counties, where they made their firſt Settlements, about 200 Years before they arrived at the ſupreme Power. To this may be added, the Averſion that their Barbarity to the *Britains* had wrought in them, to their Government, Perſons and Speech.

THE *Saxons*, by a longer Poſſeſſion, did more ſuppreſs the *Britiſh* Tongue, then mixed with ſome *Latin* and *Daniſh*, and cultivated their own Tongue univerſally throughout the Kingdom.

To them ſucceeded the *Normans*, who induſtriouſly laboured to eradicate the *Saxon Language, and eſtabliſh the French* in its Stead; and

ans, the preſent common Speech of *Engla*
of a *Saxon* and *French* Original.
ir Technical Words, or Terms of Art and
of the Nations of *Europe*, have fetch'd th
Latins, together with the Arts and Sciences th
wiſe, by Commerce and Converſe, introduc
French, *Danes*, *Germans*, *Italians*, &c.
lition of Languages, and by the daily C
duce any emphatical and ſignificant Words,
aintance with foreign Languages they find
liſh Tongue, that it is become the moſt co
ay (I believe) venture to ſay in the whole
want a proper Word to expreſs any Thing
raſis, as the *French*, &c. are frequently ob
f the Scantineſs of their *Copia Verborum*.
ſneſs of the *Engliſh* Tongue, rendring it not
in the firſt Volume, has been the Occaſi
ptance that my Labours therein have met w
for my Proceedure in it, and preſenting the
, in order to render this Dictionary as compl

hat I would before have inſerted in the firſt
oom, I have ſince found many Words, and
e had others communicated to me by ſome
communicative Diſpoſitions, and have alſo
ueful Matter, not at all in the former.
bare verbal Deſcriptions and Explications
v in Heraldry and the Mathematicks, proc
rfect Idea of them in the Mind, I have he
Schemes, for the more clear apprehending
ſo common with our modern Poets, to in
Roman Theology, Mythology, &c. in their
ce with which renders their Writings either
elligible and tafteful to the Readers, I have
otice of the moſt material Parts of the Acco
ds, Goddeſſes, Oracles, Auguries, Divinatio

and do repreſent the Heathen Gods, Goddeſſes, Nymphs, Heroes, Virtues, Vices, Paſſions, Arts, Sciences, Months, *&c.* and thro' the Whole there are inſerted many Curioſities too many here to be mentioned.

AND foraſmuch as many Perſons of a ſmall Share of Literature, and not very converſant in Books, are frequently apt to accent Words wrong, eſpecially thoſe that are Technical, and ſuch as are not the moſt common, I have placed an Accent on that Syllable, on which the Streſs of the Voice ſhould be laid in pronouncing: And here I would deſire the favourable Cenſure of Criticks, in that I have not confined myſelf to the placing it always on the Syllable that the *Greeks* have; becauſe they would, if ſo accented, frequently ſound very uncouth, and harſh to *Engliſh* Ears, and very diſſonant to the Genius of the *Engliſh* Tongue.

As to the Method of this Volume, it is exactly the ſame as the firſt, and as to the Etymology, where I could not find any Original, I have in their Stead writ (*Incert. Etym.*) i. e. the Etymology is uncertain. Tho' I am perſuaded that many, nay moſt of our common Words (excepting ſuch as are humorous or canting) do owe their Original to the *Saxon* Language. But the *Saxons* having been a warlike People, who minded Fighting more than Writing, and the Art of Printing being not then found out, has been the Occaſion that there were few Books in the World in thoſe Times, and the greateſt Part of them probably deſtroyed by the *Normans*, and the Iron Teeth of Age having been gnawing the Remains of them for now near ſeven hundred Years, it is no Wonder, that what is left is ſo imperfect.

BUT having in the Introduction to the Firſt Volume given an Account more at large by what Steps and Gradations our *Engliſh* Tongue is come to be what it now is, from what it anciently was, and not having Room here to expatiate, I ſhall deſiſt, hoping that theſe my Labours may be both as acceptable and ſerviceable to my Countrymen, as they have been laborious to me in the Compiling.

AND for the Satisfaction (but not the Imitation) of the Curious, I have added a Collection of Words, *&c.* uſed by the *Canting* Tribe.

N. BAILEY.